

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Scholastic Committee

Campus Governance

4-14-2022

Scholastic minutes 04/14/2022

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Scholastic Committee Meeting April 14, 2022 Minutes

Present: Dennis Stewart (chair), Jason Ramey, Alyssa Pirinelli, Josh Kuusisto, Jess Larson, Jessica Porwoll, Maureen Zeleny, Zander Roemer

Notetaker: Beth Zaske

Special Guest Dean Ng:

Dean Ng discussed the test optional admissions. The Board of Regents asked about the plans for test optional admissions. The Morris campus already has test optional admissions up to the Fall 2023 term. Test optional admissions began Fall 2021, which Dean Ng observed is not enough time to have data for how the policy has affected admissions and student academics.

Morris, Rochester, and the Twin Cities campuses have decided to be test optional for all incoming students up to and including the incoming group of Fall 2025. Alyssa stated this is a good idea, and gives us the option to revisit the test optional policy and revise if needed. Dean Ng said that our decision will be shared with the Board of Regents at their next meeting.

Minutes from March 31, 2022 meeting:

Motion made to approve minutes from March 31, 2022 meeting. Unanimous vote to approve minutes.

Chair Report:

Chair Dennis Stewart received an email from Victor Berberi about language proficiency exams. There are currently languages for which we do not offer exams. Victor, in consultation with Stacey Aronson, Humanities Division Chair, Marcus Muller, director of the Office of the Registrar, and Angie Senger, transfer coordinator, has found an online oral proficiency test for the language exams we do not currently offer. Victor proposed that the language faculty make the determination as to which scores will fulfill the World Language requirement for these tests. Jessica Porwoll noted that she would like to hear more about the testing service and how it will interact with other programs. Jessica also noted that the language exams did change vendors within the last few years and asked if there is a way we can cut down on manual labor related to the exams. Alyssa noted that the exams need to be consistent. Dennis stated we will have to learn more, hopefully at the next meeting.

SCEP Report:

Jessica Larson reported that the SCEP committee discussed how to improve response rates for Student Ratings of Teaching (SRTs). COVID forced the ratings to go from paper to online. The response rate for paper SRTs is around 60-70% while the online response rate is around 40%. The idea of tying grade access to the SRTs was floated. Some questions arising from this are if students are able to opt out and if the SRT online access would be open longer. Joe stated he did not like attaching the SRT to the grade. Alyssa made the observation that the online SRTs tend to be more polarized while the paper SRTs tend to be more moderate. She also stated that

sexism and racism would still be an issue. Jessica Larson stated that the online SRTs work for at least some students and faculty but not everyone.

Petition Delegation Discussion:

Beth Zaske presented information about how many petitions and of what kind the Office of the Registrar receives. In Fall 2021 OTR received 54 petitions. So far in Spring 2022, OTR has received 25 petitions. The data cannot be compared to the previous terms as the previous terms had COVID rules in place. Fall 2021 is the first term without COVID rules in place, so is the only comparable term. Most petitions were for students taking their one time drop or to drop a course or all courses after the last day to drop.

The committee decided to table the discussion of delegating petitions until the next meeting so the Director of the Office of the Registrar could be in attendance.